Field Report: Fanny Bennett Hollow
S. tsugae Survey, Hemlock Health, June 16, 2004

On June 16, 2004 I conducted a S. tsugae release survey of Fanny Bennett Hollow. I spent 180 Minutes total (3 hours) searching at four beetle release sites for any signs of S.tsugae adults and or larvae. A total of zero (0) beetles and zero (0) larvae were found.

Overall health of the hemlocks remained the same from the previous year survey. I conducted tree crown ratings on a sample of hemlocks as in the previous year. The results, as compared to 2003 ratings, are:

2003 Crown Ratings	2004 Crown Ratings
Density: 35	Density: 30
Dieback: 40	Dieback: 45
Transparency: 50	Transparency: 50

I noticed new hemlock growth on suppressed, intermediate, and the lower branches of the dominant/codominat trees. The suppressed and intermediate trees had the most and longest new growth while the lower branches of the dominant/codominant trees had small bits of new growth at the very end of their branches. I noticed very little or no new growth at all in the upper canopy of most of the dominant/codominant trees. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) was present in suppressed and intermediate hemlock, (low population density) however, I could not make a positive conformation of HWA in the dominant/codominant canopy due to the height of the trees and current weather conditions at the time (rain). The dominant/codominant hemlock canopy also exhibited a lot of branch mortality (dieback) as in the previous year.

Hemlock blow down was prevalent in 2003, trees and all size limbs. I noticed limb blow down this year but not nearly as many uprooted trees or bole snapping as I did in 2003.